

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012
5:30P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Councilman Yeargin called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms (Late Arrival), Councilmember Aretha Stephenson (Excused), Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Vincent E. Jones, City Administrator and Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. MEETING TOPICS:

- 3.1.1. Chief Bashoor, Prince George's County Fire Department
- Chief Bashoor stated they have begun down a journey with this particular fire station over twenty years ago. He stated that it is was in the Capital Improvement Project and with most projects that tends to get pushed back. In this particular case a location was chosen at Shady Glen Drive and Central Avenue. The station is currently located two miles from the current location. The master plan looks at the distribution of delivery of services. The land has been identified and meetings with different communities have been held for over three years. The initial engineering and design has begun on the station. They have met with the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department to explain what this means to them. He submitted to the Mayor and Council the first renderings and the designs of the Capital Improvement project for the new fire station. The location chosen is taken into account and it is 1.2 miles from here. It put the stations of Capitol Heights and District Heights of two miles from one another.

- Councilman Porter stated that they wanted to hear directly from Chief Bashoor and how it would impact the City. He wanted to know if there could be some compromise with the station remaining in Seat Pleasant. There is concern with the EMS services in the community. There is a concern regarding the structure of the properties and the response time is very important. He stated that there is a serious amount of concern with regards to location and distance of the fire department being relocated. There is a concern with the things that are going on over in District of Columbia. He stated that there is a concern with losing a fire department that has been in our community for a long time and providing services in the area.
- Mayor Grant welcomed Chief Bashoor to the City. Mayor Grant stated that there are concerns with the decision to relocate the career fire station out of the fire department. The volunteer fire department is as old as the city itself. We make a contribution to the fire department every year and there is discussion to increase the funding. Having them move out of the city is like losing a major member of your family. They are very much involved in the community by attending Seat Pleasant Day and other activities knocking on doors to ensure every home has a smoke detector.
- He stated the homes are stick built without fire sprinklers and the ambulance services have responded to many services with the needs to the community.
- He stated that he understands that a decision has been made and he would like to know where there can be a compromise. He stated that he does not think the desires and needs of Seat Pleasant were taken into consideration, as this is our first formal meeting. He said they will continue to fight for the Volunteer Fire Department. He stated that he has some ideas in his mind, but he would like to hear from them first. He stated that the Mayor and Council are in full support of the fire department.
- Chief Bashoor stated that he would like to thank them for their admiration and the commitment from the city. He stated that he started in the department as a volunteer in 1981 and his wife is a volunteer. He stated that every one of the members are very important to him. He stated he completely understands the needs of the fire department. He stated that as they looked at other situations in Mount Rainer and Brentwood and they combined three stations in one facility. He stated that it was not the best use of resources.
- He stated that the decisions were based on the same design. He stated that he would like to keep the information off the public record as the volunteer fire department was presented with an option and they are taking the information back to their attorney. He said he would have discussion with them after the

meeting. He said he is certain the Seat Pleasant Fire Department had shared with the City what was presented to them.

- He stated that it was part of the design plan for Prince George's County. He stated that he has to consider all of Prince George's County and Seat Pleasant is included in that plan. He stated that from an operation stand point the fire trucks and EMS services to respond from in Prince George' County. He stated that one of the busiest areas is Silver Hill Road. He stated that the District Heights station would have another ambulance placed there. He said he expects the station that will be located at Shady Glen may have an ambulance services.
- He stated operationally he would rather hear what the city is looking for. He said a decision has been made. Mayor Grant wanted to know the amount of monies that are being given to the station. Chief Bashoor stated that they are giving \$20,000 per year for station management and that money is used to pay for fuel, repair of apparatus, paper supply, supplies and toilet paper.
- Ben Barksdale, Deputy Fire Chief stated that above the \$20,000 it is funds that are provided with additional funds are provided for fuel, paper and items, etc. that are used daily. The \$20,000 is to pay for insurance and events to raise funds and any additional items that need to pay for services. He stated that the balance is used to pay for fuel and utilities. Mayor Grant wanted to know how much monies were provided to the station for the past five years. They stated that they would provide the information.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that he is an agent for change and he loves the picture. He stated in this case the change will share an impact in the community. He stated that we provide services to Seat Pleasant Police Department to assist with fighting crime and it would be a tragedy from the holistic view of the community.
- Councilman Porter stated that as the Mayor indicated he would come up with a program. He wanted to know if the dispatching of calls would be stopped. He wanted to know if the volunteer fire department would not be included with the final planning process. He wanted to know if they could provide us with a timeline of the project and construction date. He said we wanted to work out some amicable compromise. He said the Volunteer Fire Station would like to remain here.
- He stated that we put the citizen's money in the budget every year. As the council was mentioning with the Subregion IV plan and they look at the business that would come into the area who are attracted to the area because of the Fire Station. We have planned for development here. He understands that they have put a lot of money in Capitol Height's station and he wonders why

the money was not put into Seat Pleasant. He stated that we were willing to put money into the fire truck. He would be interested in hearing what was offered to the Fire Department and it may be a way of compromise.

- Mayor Grant stated that he and Councilwoman Toles had a conversation and concluded that your decision was made. We feel that there is a way for a compromise. He stated that they would like for calls to continue to the station for five years. We would pay the services to station in year six if they continue them for five years. We will only provide services to Seat Pleasant residents, businesses and faith community. He stated that they would give back services, if needed and it is the same as the Police Department does for the county.
- He stated that the volunteer fire station owns the building. He would like for them to consider the proposal. Chief stated that it is some difficulties legally as to how the County Code is written. He stated that the dispatch request is another legal concern. He said the dispatch could delay services. Mayor Grant stated we are currently doing this for the police department. Chief stated they have radio services. Mayor Grant stated that he may have said it wrong. He said the calls will be dispatched to Seat Pleasant for Seat Pleasant. He stated that he is willing to have the discussion. He stated that it would be more appropriate for them to talk to the council and he would be happy to attend the meeting.
- He stated that part of his job is to authorize the response in Prince Georges County. He stated that as they move forward with a plan in place, he will instruct them not to respond. He stated that the timeline is about two years out. They have purchased the property and there is still design work going on with the property. He was hoping he could have provided a site plan, but they are not to at this point.
- He stated that a volunteer was involved with the interior design and they would be involved throughout. There are some aspects that are out of his hands. He stated that he is willing to sit down and have a discussion.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know the period of time assistance would be provided. Chief Bashoor stated that they would pay the utilities for the station for five years and allow the station to be used for training and fund raising. He said that operation will be out of the station. He stated that he would need to look at all of Prince George's County and he knows it is difficult for the community to lose a fire department.
- He stated that when the community was built in 1800, five things were built, a church, a school, a town hall, a store and a fire station. He stated that they have combined churches and schools and all the other services. They have never

combined a fire station. He said he does not take it lightly and he is willing to discuss.

- Councilman Yeargin stated that you said the “power is in your hand to approve and deny response to calls”. Chief Bashoor stated that he could not answer that question. Councilman Yeargin stated that we had discussion to pay for squad eight, but it was put on hold until this discussion. He stated that they did deny the squad to be put into service. He stated that it had transmission issues. He stated that because of the age and mileage of the vehicle, it did not make sense to put additional monies into it. He stated that it was not safe. He stated that the vehicle was not primarily used for rescue, but it was used for the runs.
- He inquired if the Volunteer Fire Department had purchased a rescue engine. Chief Brenner stated that he could not say. He stated that he would not put a squad back into Seat Pleasant based on the deployment.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know if the additional services provided by the Seat Pleasant Volunteer fire department when Morningside was out of service, should it have weighed in our favor.
- Mayor Grant wanted to know how many new squads were purchased. He stated that they have put in request to purchase one next year. He stated they have a replacement plan that was submitted to the County Council.
- He asked the reason the purchase of the squad was denied. Chief Bashoor stated that it was based on the needs of the deployment. He said from a complete deployment status he does not feel the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department is the best place to put a fire apparatus. Mayor Grant stated that they were going to pay for the truck not the county. Chief Bashoor stated that we would have to pay for insurance and fuel.
- Chief Bashoor stated that the map shows the hash mark area of 4.1 miles currently. He stated the town will be provided by Chapel Oaks, Capitol Heights and the new station. He stated that it will be supported by Palmer Park, District Heights.
- Mayor Grant stated that we do not have staff to provide the research. He is very concerned about the increase in the response time. He stated that the concern is moving the station out of Seat Pleasant will increase the response time tremendously. He stated that you are moving into the areas with the houses that have sprinkler systems and the city properties currently do not have sprinkler systems. Chief Bashoor stated that the majority of the houses in the new location do not have sprinkler system, but the newer properties in the area do have them.
- He said the decision was to support the entire Prince George’s county.

- He stated that there will be a new Kentland station and another station that is relatively close to the new station. The new St. Joseph station is in Largo and it open about a year ago. The design of these and the master plan goes on a national standard and they have a four minute response on top of the two minutes dispatch. He refers to it as a seven minute circle and it is a tremendous amount of overlap and is within the national standards. This information is taken into consideration when discussions are made.
- Councilman Porter stated he could have some arguments based on the development taking place in the area. He stated that things can happen within the response time and it can have an impact on the development.
- Councilman Raynor stated the station is being moved to provide better services to the beltway. Chief Bashoor stated that he is moving it based on the needs in Prince George's County. He stated the beltway is not a decision to moving a station.
- Councilman Porter wanted to know the services that would come out of the new station. Chief Bashoor stated the engine and ambulance. He stated the deployment is based on the community and the need.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that he was looking at the map and said that if they kept the Seat Pleasant station and moved the Shady Glen station to Morgan Boulevard, it would be closer to the beltway. Chief Bashoor stated that the beltway is not the premises for moving a station.
- Mr. Jones stated that since they are in the initial planning stages if there were plans to move the career personnel. Chief Bashoor stated that there are no plans to move career personnel.
- Chief Brenner stated he appreciated the chief and the staff for coming to speak with the council. He said that the Chief just answered the questions he had regarding the move of the career personnel.
- He stated he appreciates the rescue engine being brought into the area. We understand the idea that citizens everywhere have a need for services. He stated that they are concerned about Seat Pleasant. He stated the station was in service twenty years before the city was incorporated. They feel that the property was obtained by the help of the city.
- He stated that as development we do not know when a street may close or speed humps will be put up. He stated that we do not have rescue squad. He stated that they feel that can fill in when there isn't a station with one. We have had a few accidents in the last two years. Seat Pleasant was the sixth busiest station last year.

- He stated that the calls are averaging 4,000 per year. He stated that it says that there are still some services that are needed. He stated that all station runs outside of the area. He stated that they were the fourth engine to arrive.
- Councilman Porter stated that they play integral part in our city and provide reports for the monthly meetings.
- Councilman Raynor wanted to know the response time for the Morningside calls. Chief Brenner stated that he could not give the response time, but response was longer due to the distance. He stated they cover a significant territory. He stated that when the station was moved to Flowers High School, they responded to calls further down Martin Luther King Highway. Station five has week day personnel, but it is the week end that they need coverage.
- Councilman Yeargin wanted to know what problems he sees with speed humps in the future. He stated that there are nine speed humps on Shady Glen Drive and it would increase a response time. He said they know it will slow down the response time.
- Dave McGill stated he has met with the city for years regarding the relocation of the fire department.
- He stated that he can take a map and make it look like what we want. He stated the map in front of them provides the location of the stations. He stated that they could not ensure the safety of the seniors or the residents here. He stated that we have covered a large amount of areas for years. He stated that it was stated that the career fire fighters we supposed to be moved out on February 1, 2012. He feels that a compromise needed to be made in regards to relocating the station.
- Chief Bashoor stated that he wanted to reiterate that they will not be moving the career staff from the stations. They have a class scheduled for March 1, 2012 to hire twenty eight new hires with a ten week class. He stated that there are no smoking mirrors in the map. He stated that the only difference in the map is it has more trees than what are on the actual site.
- Councilman Porter thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and that we will be following up Chief Bashoor office to schedule another meeting.

4. LEGISLATION

4.1.1. None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1.1. NONE

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

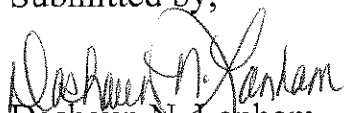
6.1.1. Special Session, City Hall-Council Chambers, Monday, February 6, 2012 at 5:30pm

6.1.2. Public Hearing, City-Hall-Council Chambers, Monday, February 6, 2012 at 6:00pm

6.1.3. Regular Work Session, City Hall-Council Chambers, Monday, February 6, 2012 at 6:00pm

ADJOURN- The meeting adjourned at 7:01p.m.

Submitted by,


Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk

APPROVED 02/13/12